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# THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PSYCHOLOGY

Founded in 1887

by

G. STANLEY HALL

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## THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PSYCHOLOGY

Thirty-four years ago, in November, 1887, I falteringly issued the first number of THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PSYCHOLOGY. There was then no other periodical on this subject in the English language except *Mind*, which was established in 1876 by Croom Robertson, who had told me the interesting story of its inception in a way that filled me with emulation. *Mind* represented advanced British thought, although it had printed not a few of my own articles and those of my students before we had an organ of our own. Both its spirit and its field were very different from the journal I intended, which I wanted to have, first of all, an exponent of experimental laboratory psychology. As, however, there was then no such laboratory in the country save my own at the Hopkins, the supply of material for the six hundred pages per annum that our prospectus had announced was very meager. This was fortunate for the *Journal*; for we had to make a virtue of necessity and include non-experimental articles over a wide range, drawing upon the fields of philosophy, logic, aesthetics, and religious, educational, pathological and comparative psychology. Even thus the supply of acceptable materials was scanty. Hence a very large part of the early volumes was devoted to book-reviews, excluding none of these fields. The vast majority of this small-type material was written by my-

self, and this required diligent and almost incessant reading and epitomizing.

Moreover, the *Journal* was a personal enterprise, and for years it was a heavy drain upon my own purse. My hopes and expectations had been extravagant, as I realized to my grief. Subscribers were few, and while there were some cordial expressions of appreciation, *e.g.* from James and Ladd, there was plenty of criticism from conservative instructors in this general field like Dr. McCosh, who felt that the position he had taken in his psychology, that mind and body were utterly disparate and incommensurable, was challenged in our prospectus. The negative attitude of the *Journal* toward telepathy and the English psychic researchers lost us not a few subscribers and alienated a patron who had made a generous and unsolicited contribution—the only one the *Journal* ever had—on the assumption, as it afterwards appeared, that the *Journal* would favor this cult. Thus the second year saw an actual reduction of our subscription list, and only with the third volume did we find our own; and most of the subscribers to that volume are with us yet. Thus for years I was editor, publisher, chief contributor, and sole financial support of the *Journal*, in which at its darkest period I had sunk over eight thousand dollars of my own meager savings, which I saw little prospect of ever regaining. But I was committed to the enterprise and must “carry on.” And in this I was encouraged, first by the spirit of Hopkins, and later by the generosity of Jonas G. Clark, our Founder, who employed Dr. Sanford to edit the *Journal* during 1888-89, when I was abroad. With the growth of departments of psychology in the country, and after the organization of The American Psychological Association at Clark in 1890, the fortunes of the *Journal* began to improve, and they have done so slowly and surely ever since.

The chief good fortune in the history of the *Journal* was the advent of E. B. Titchener of Cornell as one of the associate editors in 1895, and gradually the contributions from him, his laboratory, and his pupils have taken the predominant place in its pages. In all the vicissitudes of the *Journal* he

has stood loyally by, and but for his coöperation the *Journal* would have had a far different and less useful and honorable career. New journals have appeared, several of which at first seemed likely to interfere with our circulation, but the record shows that that of the *American Journal* has steadily increased.

In transferring the control of the *Journal*, as I do with this number, to its new editor, I feel, as is only natural, that to part with the child that has occupied so much of my care for so long marks a break which is less only than retiring from Clark, which is only slightly younger than it. Professor Titchener is, however, my natural successor and heir, the only one to whom it ought to go, and under whose management I am rejoiced to feel that the *Journal* will enter upon a new era. I believe that he will not only realize many hopes of my own that I have not been able to bring to fulfillment, but will make the *Journal* a leader and a light as it has never been before. I have asked and received no assurances from him regarding the fate of any of "my policies," so that he is absolutely free to do and make what he will of the *Journal*. But I know something of his ideals, and they have not only my most enthusiastic endorsement, but I bespeak for him all the goodwill and support both from contributors and subscribers that the *Journal* has previously enjoyed, and am confident that under his guidance it will enter upon a larger career of service than it has hitherto known. On the day Clark University opened, the University of Berlin cabled us its *Vivat, Crescat, Floreat*. This is my message to my successor.

G. STANLEY HALL.

The most welcome announcement that I can make to readers of the *Journal* is, I am sure, this: that Dr. Hall does not wholly sever his connection with us, but on the contrary promises us his active sympathy and support. I wish we could make him realize how much this means to us!

As for policies, I did not know that he professed any,—unless, indeed, a wide interpretation of the word 'psychology,' a generous catholicity of attitude toward every movement that

touched psychology and might help to advance it, an eager and yet discriminating enthusiasm for new psychological trends, and a steady adherence to the ideals and standards of scientific work, may be said to constitute policies. I shall, at all events, try in these regards to follow as closely as I many in Dr. Hall's footsteps. We cannot improve upon those early volumes of which he speaks so modestly; but I hope, with the valued aid of my co-workers, to make the future *Journal* worthy of the past.

E. B. TITCHENER.